

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and in response to the final Office Action dated June 14, 2007, which set a three-month period for response. Filed herewith is a Request for a One-month Extension of Time, making this amendment due by October 14, 2007.

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 62-74448 to Kitamura. The Advisory Action dated August 21, 2007, issued in response to the Applicants' Request for Reconsideration, maintained the final rejection.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner noted that the features upon which the Applicants relied (i.e., the first converter and the second converter each being configured for reforming hydrocarbons to hydrogen) are not recited in claim 1. In the present amendment, therefore, claim 1 has been amended to define the present invention more clearly over the cited reference to Kitamura by defining that "each of the first converter and the second converter is configured for reforming hydrocarbons to hydrogen" and that "the flow of matter containing hydrocarbons is converted in the first converter and in the second converter to a hydrogen-enriched fluid flow".

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 now more clearly defines this feature, which as argued previously, is not disclosed by Kitamura.

The application in its present condition is believed to be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions, or wish to discuss the merits of the application, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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